

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method for evaluating performance of a search mechanism based on context-based user feedback data ~~gathering context-based user feedback for a search mechanism, where said search mechanism is adapted to perform a search in response to user inputs,~~ said method comprising:
  - collecting user information from a user having access to said search mechanism;
  - monitoring of said search mechanism for user behavior data regarding an interaction of said user with said search mechanism to perform a search;
  - monitoring said search mechanism for search mechanism response data regarding said search;
  - ~~determining~~ acquiring the context-based user feedback data describing said search by submitting questions to the user regarding a performance of the search engine with respect to said search and receiving responses to said questions; and
  - using the context-based user feedback data to evaluate the performance of the search mechanism.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, where said user information comprises one or more of the following:
  - the speed of said user's connection to said search mechanism;
  - the type of said user's connection to said search mechanism;
  - a classification of said user's use of said search mechanism;
  - background information concerning said user; or
  - the language which said user is using to perform said search.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, where said step of collecting said user information comprises:

requesting said user information from said user;

accepting responses from said user.

4. (currently amended) At least one of an operating system, a computer readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of computer-executable instructions, a co-processing device, and a computing device, ~~and a modulated data signal carrying computer executable instructions~~ for performing the method of claim 1.

5. (currently amended) A method for evaluating performance of a search mechanism based on context-based user feedback data ~~gathering context-based user feedback for a search mechanism, where said search mechanism is adapted to perform a search in response to user inputs~~, said method comprising:

monitoring of said search mechanism for user behavior data regarding an interaction of a user having access to said search mechanism with said search mechanism to perform a search;

monitoring said search mechanism for search mechanism response data regarding said search;

determining if a snooze request specifying a time period to suspend collection of explicit feedback data is in effect from said user, and, if not, if explicit feedback should be collected, and if so collecting explicit feedback data from said user; ~~and~~

~~determining~~ acquiring context-based user feedback data describing said search, said context-based user feedback data comprising said explicit feedback data if said explicit user feedback data was collected; and

using the context-based user feedback data to evaluate the performance of the search mechanism.

6. (canceled)

7. (original) The method of claim 6, where said step of determining if a snooze request is in effect from said user comprises:

determining if said user has issued a snooze request; and

determining if an associated time period associated with said snooze request has elapsed.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 5, ~~where said step of determining if explicit feedback should be collected comprises~~ further comprising:

storing target data concerning a target value for how often explicit feedback should be collected for searches; and

allowing explicit feedback ~~to should~~ be collected only if collecting the explicit feedback would not result in exceeding ~~in such a manner as to approximately reach~~ said target value for how often explicit feedback is collected.

9. (currently amended) At least one of an operating system, a computer readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of computer-executable instructions, a co-processing device, and a computing device, ~~and a modulated data signal carrying computer executable instructions~~ for performing the method of claim 5.

10. (currently amended) A method for evaluating performance of a search mechanism based on context-based user feedback data ~~gathering context-based user feedback for a search mechanism is implemented in a web browser, where said search mechanism is adapted to perform a search in response to user,~~ said method comprising:

monitoring of said search mechanism for user behavior data regarding an interaction of the user having access to said search mechanism with said search mechanism to perform a search, said user behavior data comprising data concerning at least one member of a selected ~~from among the following~~ group comprising: query performed by said user, dwell time on said results page, <sub>1</sub> ~~click time on said results page,~~ <sub>1</sub> ~~position of result clicked,~~ <sub>1</sub> ~~more results requested by said user,~~ <sub>1</sub> ~~result dwell time,~~ <sub>1</sub> ~~result page size,~~ <sub>1</sub> ~~or~~ and result page actions;

monitoring said search mechanism for search mechanism response data regarding said search; and

determining acquiring context-based user feedback data ~~describing said search by~~

submitting questions to the user regarding a performance of the search engine with respect to said search and receiving responses to said questions; and  
using the context-based user feedback data to evaluate the performance of the search mechanism.

11. (currently amended) A system for evaluating performance of a search mechanism based on context-based user feedback data ~~gathering context based user feedback for a search mechanism, where said search mechanism is adapted to perform a search in response to user inputs,~~ said system comprising:

user information collector for collecting user information from a user having access to said search mechanism;

user behavior monitor for monitoring of said search mechanism for user behavior data regarding an interaction of said user with said search mechanism to perform a search;

context monitor for monitoring said search mechanism for search mechanism response data regarding said search;

context-based user feedback data accumulator for ~~determining~~ acquiring context-based user feedback data describing said search by submitting questions to said user regarding a performance of the search engine with respect to said search and receiving responses to said questions, the context-based user feedback data accumulator further for using the context-based user feedback data to evaluate the performance of the search mechanism.

12. (original) The system of claim 11, where said user information comprises one or more of the following:

the speed of said user's connection to said search mechanism;

the type of said user's connection to said search mechanism;

a classification of said user's use of said search mechanism;

background information concerning said user; or

the language which said user is using to perform said search.

13. (original) The system of claim 11, where said user information collector requests said user information from said user and accepts responses from said user.

14. (currently amended) A system for evaluating performance of a search mechanism based on context-based user feedback data ~~gathering context-based user feedback for a search mechanism, where said search mechanism is adapted to perform a search in response to user inputs~~, said system comprising:

user behavior monitor for monitoring of said search mechanism for user behavior data regarding an interaction of a user having access to said search mechanism with said search mechanism to perform a search;

context monitor for monitoring said search mechanism for search mechanism response data regarding said search;

explicit feedback collection mechanism for making a determination of whether determining if a snooze request specifying a time period to suspend collection of explicit feedback data is in effect from said user, and, if not, should be collected, and if so, collecting explicit feedback data from said user; and

context-based user feedback data accumulator for ~~determining~~ acquiring context-based user feedback data describing said search, said context-based user feedback data comprising said explicit feedback data if said explicit user feedback data was collected, the context-based user feedback data accumulator further for using the context-based user feedback data to evaluate the performance of the search mechanism.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The system of claim 15, where the determination of whether if a snooze request is in effect from said specific user comprises:

a determination of whether said user has issued a snooze request; and

a determination of whether an associated time period associated with said snooze request has elapsed.

17. (currently amended) The system of claim 14, where said explicit feedback collection mechanism stores target data concerning a target value for how often explicit feedback should be collected for searches; and allows explicit feedback to be collected ~~in such a manner as to approximately reach~~ only if collecting the explicit feedback would not result in exceeding said target value for how often explicit feedback is collected.

18. (currently amended) A system for evaluating performance of a search mechanism based on context-based user feedback data ~~gathering context based user feedback for a search mechanism is implemented in a web browser, where said search mechanism is adapted to perform a search in response to user inputs,~~ said system comprising:

user behavior monitor for monitoring of said search mechanism for user behavior data regarding an interaction of a user having access to said search mechanism with said search mechanism to perform a search, said user behavior data comprising data concerning at least one member of a selected from among the following group comprising: query performed by said user, dwell time on said results page<sub>1</sub> [[:;]] click time on said results page<sub>1</sub> [[:;]] position of result clicked<sub>1</sub> [[:;]] more results requested by said user<sub>1</sub> [[:;]] result dwell time<sub>1</sub> [[:;]] result page size<sub>1</sub> [[:;]] ~~or~~ and result page actions;

context monitor for monitoring said search mechanism for search mechanism response data regarding said search; and

context-based user feedback data accumulator for ~~determining~~ acquiring context-based user feedback data describing said search by submitting questions to said user regarding a performance of the search engine with respect to said search and receiving responses to said questions, the context-based user feedback data accumulator further for using the context-based user feedback data to evaluate the performance of the search mechanism.